

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.40, to advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including new hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels and navigational aids, etc. (U.S. Code Title 10, Sec. 442 and Title 44, Sec. 1336 refer). Nothing in the arrangement of information implies endorsement or acceptance by NIMA in matters affecting the status and boundaries of States and territories. The Notice to Mariners presents corrective information affecting charts, NIMA Hydrographic Products Catalog, Coast Pilots, Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides, USCG Light Lists, NIMA List of Lights, Radio Navigational Aids and other products produced by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, National Ocean Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Information for the Notice to Mariners is contributed by the following Agencies: National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) (Department of Defense) for waters outside the territorial limits of the United States; National Ocean Service (NOS) (Department of Commerce), which is charged with the surveys and charting of the coasts and harbors of the United States and its territories; the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (Department of Transportation), which is responsible for the safety of life at sea and the establishment and operation of aids to navigation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of Defense), which is charged with the improvement of rivers and harbors of the United States. In addition, important contributions are made by foreign hydrographic offices and cooperating observers of all nationalities.

For further information concerning NIMA hydrographic products and services, including the Maritime Safety Information Website, users may contact:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>DSN</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Maritime Safety Information Division	301-227-5006	287-5006	301-227-5745
World-Wide Navigational Warning Service	301-227-3147	287-3147	301-227-3731
Fleet Liaison Officer	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-4211
Maritime Safety Information Website	301-227-3296	287-3296	301-227-4211
Notice to Mariners: Regions 1 and 2	301-227-3122	287-3122	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 3, 4, 5	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 6 thru 9	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides	301-227-3183	287-3183	301-227-3174
Navigation Science Publications	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-3731
Distribution Issues	301-227-7652	287-7652	301-227-4211

The Maritime Safety Information Website can be accessed via the NIMA Homepage (www.nima.mil) under the Safety of Navigation link or directly at (<http://pollux.nss.nima.mil>). For your convenience NIMA provides three e-mail addresses. For information affecting Notice to Mariners use NavNotices@nima.mil, for information affecting Sailing Directions and all other navigational publications use SDPUBS@nima.mil, for information concerning the Maritime Safety Information Website, use webmaster_nss@nima.mil.

Mariners are requested to notify NIMA of discrepancies in charts and publications, using the Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet at the back of this Notice to Mariners. This form should also be used to report permanent changes, additions, or deletions from charted or published information. Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coast radio stations. All reports are greatly appreciated. Marine Information Report and Suggestion sheets received during the past week were submitted by the following observers:

Observer	Ship/Organization
LT Scott Stoermer	COMINTICEPAT

Cover Photo: Serving our nation proudly since her commissioning on June 3rd, 1978 the **USS BRISCOE (DD-977)** is the fifteenth destroyer in a series of thirty-one *SPRUANCE* class destroyers. Built by the Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries in Pascagoula, MS, she bears the name of Admiral Robert P. Briscoe, USN, who served with distinction during WWI, WWII and the Korean Conflict. The *SPRUANCE* class destroyers were developed for the primary mission of anti-submarine warfare, including operations as an integral part of attack carrier forces. Utilizing highly developed weapons systems, the **BRISCOE** can hunt down and destroy high speed submarines in all weather, but can also engage ships, aircraft and shore targets. As a multi-purpose combatant, the **BRISCOE** is capable of providing naval gunfire support in conjunction with Marine amphibious operations worldwide. At 564 feet in length and a beam of 55 feet, she is twice as large as a WWII destroyer and as large as a WWII cruiser. The **BRISCOE's** formidable armament includes two 5-inch/54 caliber lightweight guns, one MK-41 VLS for Tomahawk cruise missiles, MK-46 torpedoes, Harpoon missile launchers, one Sea Sparrow launcher, one Rolling Airframe Missile System and two 20mm Phalanx CIWS. The **BRISCOE's** 80,000 SHP and twin controllable-pitch screws can propel her to 30+ knots. A high degree of automation permits a reduced crew of 352 Sailors and 30 Officers. The homeport of the **USS BRISCOE** is Norfolk, Virginia.